

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

1. (Original) A buoyant waterfowl decoy with moveable appendages, comprising:

a body with a longitudinal axis, a forward end, a tail end, a top, two opposing sides, a hollow interior and an open bottom, said body having a pair of shaft apertures formed in said sides of said body in opposed relation across said longitudinal axis of said body;

a buoyant base disposed within said open bottom of said body and removably connected to said body, said base extending between said two opposing sides of said body and from said forward end of said body a majority of the distance toward said tail end;

a drive assembly disposed in said hollow interior of said body, said drive assembly including a pair of motors each having a rotatable drive shaft each extending through a respective one of said shaft apertures in said sides of said body from said interior to the exterior thereof; and

a pair of appendage assemblies, each having a hub, a hub aperture in said hub to receive one of said drive shafts therein so as to removably connect said hub to said drive shaft, and at least one appendage connected to and extending outwardly from said hub, each of said appendage assemblies removably connectable to a separate one of said drive shafts.

2. (Original) The buoyant waterfowl decoy of Claim 1, wherein said drive assembly further comprises switch means for selectively activating and deactivating said motors.
3. (Original) The buoyant waterfowl decoy of Claim 2, wherein said motors are battery powered electrical motors, wherein said drive assembly further includes a battery holder to receive a battery for actuating said motors, and wherein said drive assembly further includes electrical wiring connected between said battery holder and said motors through said switch means, such that said motors are activated when a battery is placed in said battery holder and said switch is operated to conduct electrical current therethrough and said motors are deactivated when said switch is operated to interrupt the flow of electrical current.
4. (Original) The buoyant waterfowl decoy of Claim 2, wherein said switch means comprises a variable resistance switch for additionally selectively controlling the speed of said motors.
5. (Original) The buoyant waterfowl decoy of Claim 3, wherein said switch means includes automatic interrupter means for temporarily interrupting the flow of electrical current through said wiring so as to intermittently interrupt the activation of said motors when said switch is operated to conduct electrical current.

6. (Original) The buoyant waterfowl decoy of Claim 1, wherein said at least one appendage comprises a pair of elongate paddles connected to said hub in generally opposing relation and extending from said hub such that said paddles are disposed generally perpendicular to said drive shaft when said hub is connected thereto.
7. (Original) The buoyant waterfowl decoy of Claim 6, wherein said an elongate paddles are integrally formed as a unitary structure connected to said hub.
8. (Original) The buoyant waterfowl decoy of Claim 6, wherein said hub includes an extension shaft extending from said hub opposite and in coaxial alignment with said hub aperture.
9. (Original) The buoyant waterfowl decoy of Claim 1, wherein said at least one appendage comprises an elongate wing having a longitudinal axis, connected to said hub and extending from said hub such that said longitudinal axis of said wing is generally parallel to said drive shaft when said hub is connected thereto.

10. (Original) The buoyant waterfowl decoy of Claim 1, wherein said at least one appendage comprises a pair of elongate wings each having a longitudinal axis, connected to said hub in generally opposing relation and extending from said hub such that said longitudinal axes of said wings are generally perpendicular to said drive shaft with said hub is connected thereto.
11. (Original) The buoyant waterfowl decoy of Claim 1 wherein said buoyant base comprises a generally planar board formed of a closed cell foam material.
12. (Original) The buoyant waterfowl decoy of Claim 1, wherein said drive assembly includes a mounting bracket disposed in said hollow interior of said body and connected to said body, said mounting bracket includes a pole aperture to receive one end of a mounting pole therethrough, and wherein said buoyant base includes a base aperture coaxially aligned with said pole aperture of said mounting bracket to receive a mounting pole therethrough.
13. (Original) The buoyant waterfowl decoy of Claim 1, wherein said body further includes a head and neck member pivotally connected to said top of said body near said forward end thereof.

14. (Original) A buoyant waterfowl decoy with interchangeable moveable appendages, comprising:

a body with a longitudinal axis, a forward end, a tail end, a top, two opposing sides, and a hollow interior, said body having a pair of shaft apertures formed in said sides of said body in opposed relation across said longitudinal axis of said body:

a drive assembly including motor means disposed in said hollow interior of said body, and a pair of rotatable drive shafts driven by said motor means, said drive shafts extending from said interior of said body through said respective shaft apertures with a portion of each of said drive shafts extending outwardly from a respective one of said sides of said body;

buoyancy means associated with said body for providing positive buoyancy to said decoy so as to prevent said decoy from sinking below the surface of a body of water with said decoy disposed in said body of water; and

a plurality of appendage assemblies, each having a hub, a hub aperture in said hub to receive one of said drive shafts therethrough so as to releasably connect said hub to said drive shaft, and each having at least one appendage, each of said appendages connected to and extending outwardly from said hub, and each of said appendage assemblies removably connectable to a separate one of said drive shafts such that said appendage assemblies are caused to rotate upon rotation of said drive shafts with said appendage assembly connected thereto.

15. (Original) The buoyant waterfowl decoy of Claim 14, wherein said motor means comprises a pair of motors, each having a rotatable output shaft, said motors disposed in said hollow interior of said body with said output shaft of each of said motors extending through a different one of said shaft apertures in said body, and wherein said output shafts of said motors comprise said drive shafts.
16. (Original) The buoyant waterfowl decoy of Claim 14, wherein said plurality of appendage assemblies comprises a pair of paddle wheel assemblies each having an elongate paddle with first and second ends, connected to said hub between said first and second ends in generally perpendicular relation to the axis of said hub aperture, with said first and second ends extending outwardly from said hub.
17. (Original) The buoyant waterfowl decoy of Claim 14 wherein said plurality of appendage assemblies comprises a pair of rotating wing assemblies each having an elongate wing with first and second ends and a longitudinal axis, connected to said hub at said first end and extending outwardly from said hub with said longitudinal axis of said wing generally parallel to the axis of said hub aperture.

18. (Original) The buoyant waterfowl decoy of Claim 16, wherein said hub of said paddle wheel assembly includes an extension shaft extending outwardly from said hub of said paddle wheel assembly opposite said hub aperture of said paddle wheel assembly in coaxial alignment therewith, and wherein said plurality of appendage assemblies further comprises a pair of rotating wing assemblies, each having an elongate wing with first and second ends and a longitudinal axis, connected to said hub of said wing assembly at first end and extending outwardly from said hub of said wing assembly with said longitudinal axis of said wing generally parallel to the axis of said hub aperture of said wing assembly, with each said wing assemblies being removably connectable to said extension shaft of one of said paddle wheel assemblies.
19. (Original) The buoyant waterfowl decoy of Claim 14, wherein said body has an open bottom and a lower edge extending around said open bottom, and wherein said buoyancy means comprises a buoyant base disposed within said open bottom of said body adjacent to said lower edge and removably connected to said body, said base extending between said two opposing sides of said body and from said forward end of said body a majority of the distance toward said tail end, with an open passageway said tail end of said body and said buoyant base for the egress of water from said hollow interior of said body through said passageway.

20. (Original) The buoyant waterfowl decoy of Claim 16, wherein said decoy is propelled along the surface of the water by rotation of said paddle wheel assemblies, wherein said body further includes steering means comprising a head and neck member pivotally connected to said top of said body near said forward end thereof such that said head and neck member may be turned from side to side relative to said longitudinal axis of said body.

21. (Currently Amended) A waterfowl decoy, comprising:
- a body portion with a longitudinal axis, a forward end, a tail end, a top, a bottom, [two opposing sides] a first side, a second side, and a hollow interior;
- at least one drive assembly within the decoy body, said drive assembly coupled to one or more drive shafts; and
- [at least one] a first wing appendage having a longitudinal axis that extends in proximate relation to the length of said appendage, said first appendage located in proximate relation to the first side of the decoy body and coupled [attached] to the drive assembly [by a connector] and one of said drive shafts so as to provide circular rotational motion of the first appendage around its longitudinal axis when the drive assembly is activated.
22. (Previously Presented) The waterfowl decoy of Claim 21 wherein the bottom is composed of a buoyant base having sufficient buoyancy to float the decoy.
23. (Previously Presented) The waterfowl decoy of Claim 22 wherein the buoyant base is removable and provides access to the interior of the decoy.
24. (Previously Presented) The waterfowl decoy of Claim 22 wherein the buoyant base is composed of a closed cell foam material.

25. (Currently Amended) The waterfowl decoy of Claim 21 further comprising
[wherein the connector includes at least one rotatable shaft extending outward
from the side of the decoy] a second wing appendage having a longitudinal
axis that extends in proximate relation to the length of said appendage, said
second appendage located in proximate relation to the second side of the decoy
body and attached to the drive assembly and one of said drive shafts so as to
provide circular rotational motion of the second appendage around its
longitudinal axis when the drive assembly is activated.
26. (Currently Amended) The waterfowl decoy of Claim [25] 21 wherein [the
decoy has a plurality of rotatable shafts] the drive assembly drives a single
shaft.
27. (Currently Amended) The waterfowl decoy of Claim [25] 21 wherein [at least
one appendage is attached to a rotatable shaft] the drive assembly drives
separate first drive shaft and second drive shaft.
28. (Currently Amended) The waterfowl decoy of Claim 25 wherein [at least one
of said appendages includes a wing mounted on said shaft] the drive assembly
is composed of two separate motors each driving first and second drive shafts.

29. (Currently Amended) The waterfowl decoy of Claim 25 wherein [at least one of said appendages includes a foot paddle mounted on said shaft] the buoyant base is removable.
30. (New) The waterfowl decoy of Claim 29 wherein the buoyant base provides access to the interior of the decoy.
- 31.[30](Currently Amended) The waterfowl decoy of Claim [25] 21 [wherein an appendage is mounted to a rotatable shaft with a single molded structure] further comprising a first foot paddle appendage.
- 32.[31](Currently Amended) The waterfowl decoy of Claim [21] 31 [wherein at least one appendage rotates] further comprising a second foot paddle appendage.
- 33.[32](Currently Amended) The waterfowl decoy of Claim 21 wherein the bottom has an aperture for mounting onto a pole.
- 34.[33](Currently Amended) The waterfowl decoy of Claim 21 wherein the drive assembly speed is adjustable.
- 35.[34](Currently Amended) The waterfowl decoy of Claim 21 wherein the drive assembly operation is [intermittently] interruptible.

36.[35](Currently Amended) A waterfowl decoy comprising:

a body portion with a longitudinal axis, a forward end, a tail end, a top, a bottom, a first side, a second side[two opposing sides], a hollow interior, [and at least one drive shaft]

a drive assembly located in said hollow interior,

one or more drive shafts coupled to said drive assembly and driven [rotated] by [a] said drive assembly [mechanism, with said shaft extending from one side of the decoy]; and

[at least one appendage having a hub and a hub aperture to slide onto said drive shaft] a first appendage and a second appendage, each circularly rotating around the longitudinal axis of said appendage when the drive shaft rotates.

37.[36](Currently Amended) The waterfowl decoy of Claim [35] 36 wherein the drive mechanism is one or more [an] electric motors.

38.[37](Currently Amended) The waterfowl decoy of Claim [35] 36 wherein said first and second appendage is an elongated wing structure coupled [attached] to the [hub] the drive shaft.

39.[38](Currently Amended) The waterfowl decoy of Claim [35] 36 wherein said first and second appendage is a foot paddle structure coupled [attached] to the [hub] drive shaft.

40.[39](Currently Amended) The waterfowl decoy of Claim [35] 36 wherein said appendage is either a wing appendage or a foot appendage.

41[40](Currently Amended) The waterfowl decoy of Claim [35] 36 wherein said [appendage can include a wing appendage or a foot paddle appendage located on separate hubs each on a separate rotating shaft] drive shaft is an opposed single shaft driven by an electric motor.

42.[41](Currently Amended) The waterfowl decoy of Claim [35] 36 wherein said [appendage is a single molded structure] drive shaft is one or more shafts.

43[42](Currently Amended)The waterfowl decoy of Claim [35] 36 wherein said drive mechanism speed is adjustable.

44.[43](Currently Amended) The waterfowl decoy of Claim [35] 36 wherein said drive mechanism operation is [intermittently] interruptible.

45.[44](Currently Amended) A method for imparting movement to a waterfowl decoy, comprising the steps of:

providing a waterfowl decoy with a hollow body, a head end, a tail end, a top, a first side and a second side, and a bottom, with a longitudinal axis running from the head end to the tail end;

providing at least one drive mechanism inside the hollow body of the decoy driving [a] one or more rotating drive shafts [connector extending from each side of the body];

providing at least one wing appendage with a longitudinal axis extending the length of the wing appendage coupled [attached] to said drive assembly and one of said one or more drive shafts [connector]; and

moving the wing appendage coupled to said one or more drive shafts [connector] to rotate around said longitudinal axis of the wing appendage.

46.[45](Currently Amended) The method for imparting movement to a waterfowl decoy of Claim 45 [44 wherein the appendage is a wing] further comprising the steps of:

providing a foot paddle appendage attached to a rotating drive shaft;
and

moving the foot paddle appendage.

47.[46](Currently Amended) The method for imparting movement to a waterfowl decoy of Claim [44] 45 wherein [the appendage is a foot paddle] at least one appendage is attached to the rotating drive shaft using an appendage assembly.

48.[47](Currently Amended) The method for imparting movement to a waterfowl decoy of Claim [44] 45 wherein [a] the wing and [a] the foot paddle appendage are attached to the one or more rotating drive shafts [connector] using an appendage assembly.

49.[48](Currently Amended) The method of imparting movement to a waterfowl decoy of Claim [44] 45 wherein the drive mechanism is an electric motor.

50.[49](Currently Amended) The method of imparting movement to a waterfowl decoy of Claim [44] 45 wherein the one or more drive shaft [connector is] includes a rotatable shaft extending from the drive mechanism coupled to at least one rotating appendage on the first side or the second side.

51. (New) The method of imparting movement to a waterfowl decoy of Claim 45 wherein the rotating shaft is a single axle assembly.

52. (New) The method of imparting movement to a waterfowl decoy of Claim 45 wherein the rotating shaft includes two shafts.

53. (New) The method of imparting movement to a waterfowl decoy of Claim 45 wherein a removable buoyant base provides access to the interior of the hollow decoy body.